

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 9998

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, US, SN, RP

SUBJECT: A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) STATE 145169, (B) SINGAPORE 2610, (C) STATE 203561

(AUGUST 16, 1976)

1. WE AGREE WITH SINGAPORE'S ASSESSMENT (REF B) THAT, GIVEN LULL OF UNCERTAIN DURATION IN BASES NEGOTIATIONS, THERE IS LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED FROM GOS CONTINUING TO DELAY COMPLETION OF AGREEMENT WITH GOP AND THAT THIS MAY BE AS APPROPRIATE TIME AS ANY TO MOVE AHEAD ON THIS MATTER. THUS WE NO LONGER SEE OBJECTION TO EMBASSY SINGAPORE'S APPROACH-ING GOS ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED REF B.

2. IN ITS APPROACH WE DO RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY SINGAPORE REASSERT SOME OF THE POINTS NOTED IN REF C--THAT IS, (A) WE REMAIN PREPARED TO CONSIDER COOPERATING SYMPATHET-ICALLY WITH ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BETWEEN GOS AND GOP; (B) NONETHELESS IT IS INCORRECT FOR THE GOS-GOP AGREEMENT TO STATE THAT THE USG HAS APPROVED THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT;

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THUS WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT NO SUCH STATEMENT BE INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT; (C) ONCE A GOP-GOS AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT GOS AND GOP WOULD GET TOGETHER WITH US TO WORK OUT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF FACILITIES IN QUESTION.

3. FURTHER, WITH REGARD TO FOREGOING POINT 2 (C), WE BELIEVE

IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO CITE TO THE GOS THE FYI PORTION OF
PARA 1 REF C TO THE EFFECT THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE
1947 MBA (ARTICLE XXV) THE GOP CANNOT GRANT BASES-RELATED
RIGHTS TO THIRD POWERS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF USG. IN
OTHER WORDS, THE GOS SHOULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY
THAT A GOS-GOP AGREEMENT HAS NO VALIDITY UNTIL AND UNLESS
THE USG GRANTS ITS CONSENT TO THE ARRANGEMENTS AT ISSUE.

4. THE SCENARIO, AS WE ENVISAGE IT, IS FOR THE GOS AND GOP
TO CONCLUDE THEIR AGREEMENT AND THEN FOR THE GOP TO APPROACH
US, UNDER ARTICLE XXV OF THE 1947 MBA, TO SEEK OUR CONSENT.
GIVEN THE PRESENT SENSITIVITIES IN THE US-RP SECURITY
RELATIONSHIP, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE WITH
THE GOP IN THIS MATTER. THEY SHOULD COME TO US.
STULL

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